

Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson
Sen. Vi Simpson
Rep. Tim Brown
Rep. B. Patrick Bauer



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EVALUATION OVERSIGHT POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: November 9, 2011
Meeting Time: 1:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Sen. Vi Simpson; Rep. B. Patrick Bauer.

Members Absent: Rep. Tim Brown.

Call to Order - Sen. Connie Lawson called the meeting of Legislative Evaluation and Oversight Policy Subcommittee of the Legislative Council to order at 1:40 pm. She indicated that the subcommittee members had received a copy of agenda and the statute authorizing the subcommittee's work.

Update on the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) Evaluation (LCR 08-06) - Sen. Lawson called on Ms. Karen Firestone, LSA, for an update on the HIP evaluation. Ms. Firestone said that in July 2011, the Legislative Council and subcommittee members along with the Health Finance Commission members received a copy of *Healthy Indiana Plan and Health Coverage of Childless Adults Across the States*. Within the document, LSA indicated that a Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) contractor, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., would be completing a modified outcome evaluation. The evaluation resulting from Mathematica's work was due to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in April 2011. At the time of the report, the Mathematica evaluation was still in draft form and under internal review within FSSA. In recent communications with FSSA, LSA learned that the report continues to be under review, and that FSSA expects to have it available to LSA by the end of the year.

¹ These minutes, exhibits, and other materials referenced in the minutes can be viewed electronically at <http://www.in.gov/legislative> Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies.

Rep. B. Patrick Bauer asked if the report had information about money from the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax that had not been spent as the result of the reduced number of participants in HIP. Ms. Firestone indicated that the report did not address this issue and that she was not able to answer any questions on financing of HIP. She said that the report on HIP was to look at the outcome for program participants. At the request of Rep. Bauer, Ms. Diane Powers, LSA, indicated that LSA would provide subcommittee members with a report on the funding of the HIP program.

Sen. Lawson asked if it would be helpful for subcommittee members to send a letter to FSSA concerning the Mathematica report. Ms. Powers said that she did not think that was necessary at this time. Sen. Lawson told the subcommittee that the LSA report had been assigned to the Health Finance Commission, which had not heard the report this summer. She was uncertain of the reason it was not heard. Sen. Vi Simpson said that she was on the Health Finance Commission and that they had received a report from FSSA concerning HIP, but not the report from LSA.

Update on the Summer Study Committee Evaluation (LCR 11-03) - Sen. Lawson asked for an update on the current assignment to LSA to review summer study committees. Ms. Firestone said that the current plan of evaluation is to collect data from the available committee minutes to determine what committees are meeting and to make comparisons with other states that have similar legislator workload as Indiana. She said that the work timeline requires about two months more of research and writing. Sen. Lawson asked if the report would look at just the statutory committees. Ms. Firestone responded that all legislative committees would be reviewed. In response to questions from Sen. Lawson, Ms. Powers agreed that a draft report could be ready for the subcommittee by April 2012.

Discussion of Additional Study Topics - Sen. Lawson asked subcommittee members if they had recommendations for additional study topics. Sen. Simpson asked about the prior sunset evaluation process. Sen. Lawson indicated that the subcommittee process in statute is a way for the legislature to have further study of areas of concern by assigning it to LSA. LSA reviews the Indiana Code and determines if the agency's operations are within the framework of the Indiana Code. Ms. Powers indicated that the current statute was like the sunset statute in that there is a schedule of agencies for review. She said that the difference was that the sunset process was much more in depth and that it required a full year of review with a staff of eight. After the first full sunset process cycle was completed, the process was modified. This smaller program was established so that legislators could have a more detailed look at individual programs when there are concerns.

Sen. Simpson asked if topics may be suggested at the next meeting of the subcommittee in April. Ms. Powers indicated that LSA works at the direction of the subcommittee. She said that usually the subcommittee suggests a topic and then the Legislative Council adopts a resolution for LSA to undertake the subject. She said that the date of the report was usually July 1, but the subcommittee could direct the report to be completed by another date. Sen. Lawson and Ms. Powers agreed that there would be time in April to select another topic, if that is the will of the subcommittee.

With no further business to come before the subcommittee, Sen. Lawson adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.